

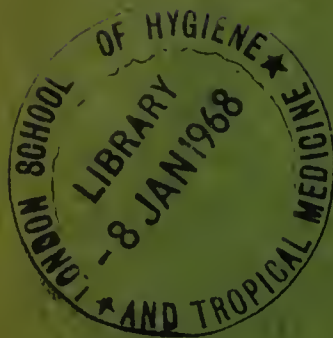
Annual Report
of the
School Medical Officer

to the
Education Committee
of the
Anglesey County Council

1942.



66839



ANGLESEY EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting my 30th Annual Report upon the School Medical Service in the County.

The work of the Mid-day Meals Committee is showing excellent results and only in nine smaller schools canteens have not yet been completed.

The School Medical Service has been fully maintained throughout the year, and the general health of the scholars has been good.

There have been no serious epidemics of illness but cases of infective jaundice have been met with more frequently.

I beg to thank all those who have been interested in or associated with the School Medical Service for their loyal co-operation and support.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ARNOLD DAVIES.

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Members of the Joint Medical Inspection Committee.

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Vice-Chairman : Miss DAVIES, M.B.E., J.P., Ty'nycaeau, Menai Bridge.

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Dr. THOMAS JONES.	Mr. W. J. WILLIAMS.
Mr. W. SHUBERT JONES.	Mr. W. O. WILLIAMS.

Staff :

<i>Clerk to the County Council</i>	WILLIAM JONES.
<i>Assistant Clerk to the County Council</i>	O. J. HUGHES.
<i>Assistant Solicitor</i>	*N. H. THOMAS, M.A.
<i>Director of Education</i>	E. O. HUMPHREYS, M.A., B.Sc.
<i>School Medical Officer</i>	ARNOLD DAVIES, B.A., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
<i>Assistant School Medical Officer</i>	A. G. YOUNG, F.R.C.S.E., D.T.M.
<i>School Ophthalmic Surgeon</i>	E. MALCOLM STOCKDALE, M.R.C.S.
<i>School Orthopaedic Surgeon</i>	B. L. McFARLAND, M.D., M.Ch., Orth., F.R.C.S.
<i>School Dental Surgeons</i>	Mrs. C. ROLANT THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.
	ELWYN JONES, L.D.S.
	LESLIE A. JONES, L.D.S. (L'pool S.M.S.)
<i>Surgeon for Throat Operations</i>	JOHN ROBERTS, F.R.C.S. (at the Caernarvonshire and Anglesey Infirmary, Bangor).
<i>Superintendent of Nurses</i>	Miss M. PRYTHERCH, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.
<i>Orthopaedic Masseuse</i>	Miss G. N. HOLME, C.S.M.M.G.
<i>Visitor to the Blind</i>	Miss L. PRYTHERCH.
<i>Physical Instructors</i>	Mrs. C. McLEOD, D.P.T.
	*W. R. WILLIAMS, D.P.T.
<i>School Architect</i>	J. ELFED REES.
<i>Clerk of Works</i>	THOMAS JONES.
<i>Chief Clerk</i>	WILLIAM H. PARRY.
<i>Clerks</i>	*MALDWYN JONES.
	Miss DORIS M. WILLIAMS.
	*Miss GRACE ROBERTS.
	*ROBERT J. JONES.
<i>School Nurses</i>	22 PART-TIME NURSES of the North Wales Nursing Association and L.M.S. Railway Nursing Association.
<i>School Health Visitors (Evacuees)</i>	Mrs. I. GARNER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

* On War Service.

The maintenance of a good state of cleanliness amongst the children is one of the main problems of the School Nurses. Despite constant attention on their part, certain children are persistently dirty and harbour nits and vermin. In certain schools the percent-

age rises to well over 20%. In some measure it is due to poverty and improper housing conditions, but quite often it is due to carelessness. It is regrettable too that often the help of the visiting nurse is spurned and resort has to be made to excluding the particular children from school. This in some cases is not even regarded as a disgrace or punishment.

Miss Prytherch, the Superintendent of Nurses, has expended considerable effort in an endeavour to improve the standard of cleanliness and has made a survey of conditions. A summary of this is given in the following table calculated per cent on an examination of 4708 children.

		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
HEADS	Clean	93.8%	79.3%	86.6%
	Nits	5.0%	20.2%	12.8%
	Vermin	0.8%	0.5%	0.6%
FEET	Clean	79.7%	91.3%	84.0%
	Fair	13.3%	6.3%	9.8%
	Dirty	8.0%	2.4%	5.2%

Nutrition.

The problem of assessing the state of nutrition is still with us and no exact criteria can be laid down. No mathematical formula can be worked out between height and weight. Some are extremely tall and thin, others are below normal height but quite well developed. Judging clinically, each child is assessed and a table of the findings may be found on page 15.

My general impression is that the standard of nutrition of the children in Anglesey now is quite as good, if not better, than when I first entered upon my work in the County in 1939. This appears to be borne out in the statistics which are compared below :

	1939	1942
A.	31.77	50.82
B.	42.78	37.22
C.	22.92	11.35
D.	2.53	.61

In view of the fact that only certain age groups are examined, it is not possible for it to be an exact comparison because the figures do not necessarily refer to the same children. If A and B are taken together it shows an improvement of nutrition of 14%.

Undoubtedly the main factor in keeping up the standard despite war-time restrictions is due to the excellent school dinners which are now being served in 46 Schools out of a total of 62.

In many cases milk is also provided but this has not been possible in every school. Halibut Liver Oil Capsules have also been distributed to be given by the teacher to certain particularly weak and ill-nourished children.

Skin Diseases.

Impetigo in its various forms is still the commonest skin trouble and entails exclusion from school in most cases. There were a few cases of ringworm but these all cleared up rapidly with treatment.

Eczematous conditions and psoriasis were also met with. Scabies fortunately was not nearly so prevalent as in 1941 but it breaks out sporadically.

Nose and Throat.

There were but few cases of serious trouble, due to adenoid enlargement but tonsillitis and chronically inflamed tonsils were found in about the same incidence as previous years.

All cases requiring the removal of tonsils and adenoids or further Specialist advice or treatment were referred to the E.N.T. Specialist.

Discharging ears are still too common but fortunately mastoid complications seem to be rare. It is exceedingly difficult to clear up a chronic discharging ear while the child remains at home. Even if cleared up the tendency is for the trouble to recur. Serious deafness was only found in a very few cases.

Vision.

Defects of vision along with tonsillar complaints takes up the greater part of the school doctor's time. Refractive defects of small or large degree in one or both eyes is fairly common. In all cases where it was deemed necessary the children were referred for Specialist's advice and most of them were provided with spectacles. Unfortunately, a great number of these do not wear them regularly. Breakages are not uncommon and unless reported little may be done for some time. Even when reported it is not easy in these days to get quick repairs performed. Nevertheless, we believe that few, if any, children who require glasses have been missed.

Heart and Circulation.

Heart murmurs were heard in 47 cases, but most of these appeared to be functional.

Severe anaemia is rarely seen but a degree of spasmodic circulatory disturbances of the extremities is not uncommonly noticed during the winter months.

Lungs.

Asthma and Bronchitis are the chest conditions most commonly met with by the School Doctor. More serious conditions have usually been discovered previous to the routine visit and dealt with by the private practitioner. Where there was any question of tuberculous infection the child was referred for specialist examination. A number of girls in a debilitated state were admitted to Penhesgyn Sanatorium. Most of them come back after a few weeks or months in a very much better state of health.

Orthopaedic.

Most children requiring orthopaedic treatment have already been seen in the Infant Welfare Clinics or by private arrangement. The conditions met with by the school doctor are particularly those of foot strain and faulty posture.

Miss Holme does the follow up work very efficiently and has been able to give Ultra Violet Ray treatment to a number of children below normal nutrition selected by the school doctor.

Nervous System.

Every year a number of children are found to exhibit signs of Chorea, 26 in 1942. There are more who manifest some signs of excessive nervousness and excitability. In connection with this it is interesting to note that one doctor in a recent article expresses the view that in all cases of chorea and rheumatism there is an underlying nervous instability. A few cases of enuresis are met with. Epilepsy in children attending school is uncommon.

Mental Defectives.

Practically every school has a few children who are mentally backward. There is a special class for such in Holyhead in connection with the Cybi School. In some cases this retarded mental development approaches that of actual feeble mindedness and such children are a great problem in the elementary schools.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

All the entrants to these schools were fully examined and all the remaining pupils reviewed as to their general health. If there was any complaint, signs of any defects or history of recent illness, a more detailed examination was made.

Generally speaking the nutrition of the pupils was found to be good and there were very few major defects of any kind. Defective eyesight and unhealthy tonsils were the conditions that were found to require treatment more than anything else. A too high proportion of the girls still show a careless attitude to a proper state of cleanliness.

A few chest and heart troubles were met with but very few severe enough to interfere with normal school life and participation in games or drill. An effort was made to immunise against diphtheria any children who had not previously been done. A number were done but there were still some refusals.

EVACUEES.

All the Evacuee Schools were visited by the School Doctor at least twice in the year and some several times. In the main the findings were those of the Welsh Schools.

The work of immunising the pupils against diphtheria was continued. Mrs. Garner continued her work as Health Visitor and followed up all cases requiring treatment. Owing to a reduction in the number of children, Miss Williams who was previously responsible for half of this work left in September. I am grateful to both of them for the efficient and constant care they have exhibited.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

As has already been mentioned the work of immunisation has been continued in the Schools. This included also any infants or children of pre-school age that parents brought along. The figures up to the end of December, 1942, are as follows :—

During the year 11 cases of diphtheria in children under 14 were notified and of these 2 had been immunised and there were no deaths.

Finally, I have to thank all the Teachers, Nurses and Office Staff for their co-operation and help which made the work outlined above possible.

A. GREVILLE YOUNG.

REPORT OF SCHOOL OPHTHALMIC SURGEON.

During the past year Wartime conditions have not been allowed to interfere with the work of the Eye Clinics.

In the period, 24 sessions were held, 14 being at Llangefni and 10 at Holyhead, all being well attended.

All arrangements have been satisfactory, and the assistance of the Staff has been excellent, making my work a pleasure.

The children play their part well, and the condition of their eyes in general is good, there being few serious eye diseases or extreme errors of refraction.

I wish to thank all those who have been concerned in the work.

E. MALCOLM STOCKDALE.

REPORTS OF THE SCHOOL DENTAL SURGEONS.

Dental Services in the Eastern half of the Island.

By the end of November last, I completed for the first time, the annual visits for dental inspection and treatment to each school in the above area.

During the year I found the children's teeth poor in structure on the whole, and decaying easily, and also noticed swollen and easily bleeding gums in quite a number of the children, probably due to the shortage of fresh fruit and vegetables in the war time diet.

The dental condition of those who have had regular treatment yearly since starting to attend school, is encouraging, but the percentage of parental consents for dental treatment is still far too low.

I should like to express my thanks to all the heads of these schools and to their teaching staffs, for their unfailing co-operation and helpfulness, and also to the District Nurses who in close touch with the children and parents in their homes are able to do so much valuable work on behalf of the dental services.

CATHERINE M. ROLANT-THOMAS.

I beg to submit my report on the School Dental Service in the County.

The percentage of consents to treatment in some schools has fallen considerably. This may be attributed to several reasons.

The use of the toothbrush is still lamentably neglected despite talks which are given to the children individually. Most children possess one but use it very rarely.

The old objection to conservative treatment still continues being more evident in rural areas.

There is need for Orthodontic treatment in the County but this, unfortunately, is outside the scope of Anglesey's Dental Service.

I again express my appreciation of the co-operation of the Head Teachers and Staffs of the schools. They are always most anxious to help.

ELWYN JONES.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SURGEON.

Steady progress is being made in dealing with unhealthy tonsils and adenoids in the Anglesey school children, and from all accounts the results are satisfactory.

In a few instances children have not turned up when sent for, and often without any particular reason being given.

It is to be hoped that parents will co-operate as far as possible by sending children when recommended for operation bearing in mind that while the operation is relatively slight in childhood, it becomes a more serious proceeding in later years.

Advice has also been given in a few cases specially referred for consultation.

JOHN ROBERTS.

REPORT OF SCHOOL ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON.

There is really nothing fresh to say. The work has continued very satisfactorily and the attendance of the patients has been good in spite of transport difficulties. The assistance of Miss Holmes and Mrs. Roberts has been very much appreciated.

BRYAN L. McFARLAND.

ORTHOPAEDIC AFTER-CARE CENTRES.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1942.

Centre	No. of Visits	No. of Patients	Treat- ments	Classes	Sunlight	Home Visits
Holychead	44	25	431	79	263	18
Llangefni	44	14	246	—	—	2
Amlwch	44	16	380	42	—	3
Beaumaris	44	6	131	39	—	1
Totals	176	61	1188	160	263	24

The number of children treated at the After-Care Centres (excluding Sunlight) remains the same as in 1941. Attendances however have increased from 774 to 1188.

Sunlight treatments are now well established. Some 23 children have had treatment and the majority are taken in classes for special exercises to improve their breathing, general posture, etc.

The extra session for "Sunlight" during the winter months started on November 27th. 28 treatments were given before Christmas. This extra session will continue till the end of March.

G. N. HOLME.

FOLLOWING UP BY THE SCHOOL NURSES, 1942.

DISTRICT	Total Number of Schools in District	Total Average Attend'ce of Schools in District	Number of Examin- ations of Scholars	Number of Visits to Homes	Number of Visits to Schools	Number of Health Talks to Schools
Aberffraw	3	256	2533	154	63	67
Amlwch	3	360	4873	116	90	37
Beaumaris	1	173	1086	124	56	7
Bodedern	3	170	1656	18	63	—
Bodorgan	3	180	1566	35	53	58
Gwalchmai	4	297	3025	207	92	2
Holyhead L.M.S. B.	3	453	5096	401	126	9
Holyhead L.M.S. W.	3	761	5278	380	139	16
Llanddona	1	74	401	184	25	104
Llanerchymedd	2	200	2450	18	21	7
Llanfaothlu	4	222	2307	50	89	25
Llanfairpwll	2	154	1369	67	33	5
Llanfechell	3	194	2017	41	66	—
Llangefni	5	383	3023	113	100	41
Llangoed	2	124	1397	85	47	4
Llanidan	2	130	1521	97	50	19
Newborough	3	187	2063	118	64	23
Marian Glas	4	193	4073	55	92	41
Menai Bridge	2	227	2053	64	67	20
Pontraeth	4	183	1994	193	78	17
Rhoscolyn	2	122	736	42	33	19
Rhosybol	3	127	2640	24	59	5
Totals	62	5180	53157	2586	1506	592

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

School Closures.

The following schools were closed during 1942 :—

Measles	Bryngwran C.S., Llangristiolus C.S., Pencarn-isiog C.S., Llangefni C.S., Llangefni C. of E., Rhosmeirch C.S.
Scarlet Fever	Llandrygarn C.S.

Exclusion of Scholars.

Diphtheria	3
Scarlet Fever	14
Whooping Cough	1
Measles	79
Mumps	13
Chicken Pox	13
Scabies	37
Impetigo	6
German Measles	1
Catarrhal Jaundice	3
Infective Hepatitis	1
	<hr/> 171 <hr/>

MINOR AILMENT CLINICS.

DISTRICT.	Old Cases	New Cases	Total Number of Cases	Total Number of Attendance	Cured	Im-proved	Under Treat-ment
Amlwch	13	172	185	1567	162	—	23
Beaumaris	80	185	265	1377	212	8	45
Holyhead	126	416	542	2006	398	28	116
Llangefni	14	97	111	458	98	—	13
Menai Bridge	41	64	105	806	68	1	36
Rural	145	926	1071	3041	922	—	149
Anglesey Total	419	1860	2279	9255	1860	37	382
Evacuees	43	514	557	1324	540	4	13
	462	2374	2836	10579	2400	41	395

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS.

Return of defects found by Medical Inspection in the year ended 31st December, 1942.

A.—Requiring Treatment.

B.—Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment.

DISEASE OR DEFECT.		Elementary Schools				Secondary Schools		Evacuated Scholars	
		Routine		Special					
		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Skin.	1. Ringworm—Scalp	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
	2. Ringworm—Body	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3. Scabies	17	3	5	7	2	1	—	2
	4. Impetigo	5	1	6	—	—	—	—	—
	5. Other Diseases not T.B.	2	4	4	5	—	3	1	4
Eye.	6. Blepharitis	1	8	1	5	—	—	—	2
	7. Conjunctivitis	—	2	1	1	1	4	—	—
	8. Keratitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	9. Corneal Opacities	2	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
	10. Other conditions (Excluding Defective Vision and Squint).	1	4	3	1	1	—	1	—
	11. Defective Vision	102	30	83	26	76	15	49	9
Ear.	12. Squint	13	5	11	8	5	1	2	—
	13. Defective Hearing	6	10	6	10	10	6	—	2
	14. Otitis Media	2	11	4	7	—	6	1	1
	15. Other Ear Diseases	—	—	4	—	1	4	3	—
	16. Chronic Tonsilitis only ..	81	127	88	94	29	21	17	18
Nose and Throat.	17. Adenoids only	—	2	6	4	—	—	2	—
	18. Chronic T. and A.	25	6	28	7	1	—	11	—
	19. Other Conditions	—	9	—	9	1	2	2	—
	20. Enlarged Cervical Glands ..	—	27	4	26	—	7	—	4
	21. Defective Speech	—	48	2	14	—	2	—	3
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease.								
	22. Organic	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
	23. Functional	—	18	—	9	—	12	—	5
	24. Anaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	24a. Debility	—	117	—	110	—	60	—	17
Lungs.	25. Bronchitis	—	7	1	11	—	6	—	2
	26. Other non T.B. Diseases Pulmonary	—	3	1	4	—	5	—	—
	27. Definite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	28. Suspected	3	13	5	16	—	3	—	—

DISEASE OR DEFECT.			Elementary Schools				Second- ary Schools		Evacu- ated Scholars	
			Routine		Special		A	B	A	B
			A	B	A	B				
Non-Pul- monary										
T.B.	29.	Glands	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
	30.	Bones and Joints	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	31.	Skin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	32.	Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nervous System.										
	33.	Epilepsy	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	1
	34.	Chorea	1	11	—	5	—	1	—	8
	35.	Other Conditions	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
	35.	Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	37.	Spinal Curvature	2	3	—	1	—	1	1	—
	38.	Other Forms	6	7	13	7	4	3	5	3
	39.	Mental	—	26	—	39	—	—	1	4
	40.	Other Diseases and Defects	3	26	3	17	—	13	2	3
	41.	Card C.E.F.	24	138	17	93	—	50	—	23
Total			296	670	293	545	132	228	99	114

Table I.*Medical Inspection of Children attending public Elementary Schools.***A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.**

(1) Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :

Entrants	613
Second Age Group	649
Third Age Group	694

Total	1956
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(2) Number of other Routine Inspections—Evacuees 283

Grand Total	2239
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B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections Anglesey. 1182

Evacuees 184

1366

Table II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Age Groups.	No. of Children Insp'ted	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly subnormal)		D. (Bad).	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	613	380	62.00	196	31.97	33	5.38	4	.65
Second Age Group	649	257	39.60	291	44.84	95	14.64	6	.92
Third Age Group	694	357	51.45	241	34.73	94	13.15	2	.28
Total—Anglesey.	1956	994	50.82	728	37.22	222	11.35	12	.61
Other Routine Inspections : Evacuees	283	144	50.88	112	39.55	22	7.76	5	1.81
Total	2239	1138	50.83	840	37.52	244	10.90	17	.75

Secondary Schools.**Table I.***Medical Inspection of Children attending Secondary Schools.*

A.—Routine Medical Inspection :

Number of Inspections

1095

Table II.

Classification of Nutrition.

Excellent	604	55.17%
Normal	344	31.41%
Slightly Sub-Normal	136	12.42%
Bad	11	1.00%

Table III.**Group I.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS** (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V.)

Total number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year
under the Authority's Scheme 2630

Including 516 Evacuated Scholars.

Group II.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.)

	Number of Defects dealt with.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including Squint (Operations for Squint should be recorded separately in the body of the School Medical Officers' Report).	293 (50)	—	293 (50)
Other Defects or Disease of the Eyes excluding those recorded in Group I.	—	—	—
Total	292 (50)	—	293 (50)

Number of Children for whom Spectacles
were :

(a) Prescribed	290	(50	Evacuated)
(b) Obtained	290	(50	Do.)

Group III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.**NUMBER OF DEFECTS.**

Received Operative Treatment.		Received other forms of Treatment	Total No. treated
Under the Authority's Scheme in Clinic or Hospital	By Private Practitioner or Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
124 (3)	—	3(.	127 (3)

Figures in () denote Evacuated Scholars.

Table IV.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

1. Number of Children inspected.

(a) Routine Age Group.

Age	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14 & Over	Total
Anglesey	558	564	543	525	525	583	525	599	493	438	5353
Evacuees	43	65	87	90	85	81	83	64	52	11	661
Grand Total											6014

	Anglesey.	Evacuees.	Total.
2. Number found to require Treatment	4814	385	5199
3. Number actually treated	5190	383	5573
4. Attendances made by Children for Treatment	7980	511	854
5. Number of Half-days devoted to Inspection	184	17	201
Treatment	664	49	713
Total			
6. Fillings :			
Permanent Teeth	1934	—	1934
Temporary Teeth	—	—	—
7. Extractions :			
Permanent Teeth	1855	118	1973
Temporary Teeth	5782	743	6525
8. Local Anaesthetics	7135	—	7135
General Anaesthetics	1	367	368

Table V.

Verminous Conditions.

- (i) Average number of visits made during the year by the School Nurses or other authorised person :
 (Anglesey : 23.50. Evacuees, 25.12.) 24.27
- (ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised person :
 (Anglesey 53157. Evacuees, 16175) 69232
- (iii) Number of individual children found unclean :
 Anglesey, 235. Evacuees, 41 276
- (iv) Number of individual children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921 —
- (v) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :
 (a) Under the Education Act, 1921—Nil.
 (b) Under School Attendance Byelaws—Nil.

Table VI.

Blind and Deaf Children.

	(1) At a Public Elementary School	(2) At an Institution other than a special School	(3) At no School or Institution	(4) Total not receiving suitable Education
Blind Children	—	—	1	1
Deaf Children	1	—	—	1

Mentally Defective Children.

Total number of children notified during the year ended 31st December, 1942, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Mental Deficiency Authority, under the Mental Deficiency (Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928 Nil.

